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SERVICE DATE - NOVEMBER 22, 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 161X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN MCLENNAN COUNTY, TX

Decided: November 20, 2000

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights to abandon 2,261 feet of railroad of the former Texas Central Railroad from Chainage Station 35+00 to Chainage Station 57+61 in Waco, McLennan County, TX. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on October 26, 2000 (65 FR 64277-78). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on November 25, 2000.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on October 31, 2000, preliminarily concluding that, as currently proposed, abandonment of the line will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. SEA requested comments by November 14, 2000.

On November 6, 2000, UP submitted a comment from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TX NRCC) requesting that UP take appropriate measures to prevent surface and groundwater contamination during and after salvage operations. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring UP to consult with the TX NRCC prior to any salvage activities in order to prevent surface and groundwater contamination, and identifies Mr. Clyde Bohmfalk, Policy and Regulations Division (512) 239-1315, as the contact person.

The recommended condition will be imposed. As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.

2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the rail line described above is subject to the condition that UP shall take appropriate measures to prevent surface and groundwater contamination and consult with Mr. Clyde Bohmfalk, Policy and Regulations Division, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, prior to salvage activities.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary